

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/750,375

Examiner

Daniel D. Chang

Applicant(s)

BLOM, ERIC D.

Art Unit

2819

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 2/16/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Acknowledgement

Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed February 16, 2006.

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-23 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the best prior art of record, Cowles, taken alone or in combination of other references, does not teach or fairly suggest a tri-level decoder circuit comprising, among other things, the second decoder circuit that includes a second switch circuit coupled to the input node; a second current source circuit coupled to the second switch circuit; and a second current mirror circuit coupled between the second switch circuit and the second output node (claim 1); the second decoder circuit that is separate from the first decoder circuit (claim 2); the first current minor that includes a plurality of p-type transistors; and the second current minor circuit includes a plurality of n-type transistors (claim 3); a driver circuit that is coupled to a control node associated with the input node, wherein the driver circuit is configured such that if the input node does not receive a driving input signal, the driver circuit actively drives the control node (claims 7 and 10); the second decoder circuit includes a second switch circuit coupled to the input node; a second current source circuit coupled to the second switch circuit; and a second current mirror circuit coupled between the second switch circuit and the second output node; and a capacitor that is coupled between the second output node and another node between the second current mirror and the second switch circuit (claim 12); the first decoder circuit further comprises a non-linear filter circuit (claims 13 and 15); a second decoder circuit that is coupled between the input node and a

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second output node, wherein the first decoder circuit further includes a non-linear filter circuit; the non-linear filter circuit includes a capacitor; and wherein the capacitor has a capacitance that is less than .5 picofarads (claim 16); a first current source circuit, a second current source circuit, a third current source circuit, and a fourth current source circuit (claim 17); means for actively driving the voltage if an input node does not receive a driving input signal (claim 20); the first current minor circuit that includes a plurality of n-type transistors; and the second current minor circuit includes a plurality of p-type transistors (claim 21); a first decoder circuit that includes a first switch circuit, wherein the first switch circuit is not part of a differential pair (claim 22); and a non-linear filter circuit that is coupled between the first switch node and the first output node (claim 23), as set forth in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

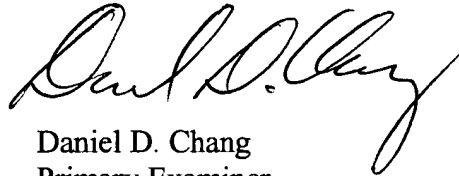
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel D. Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-1801. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rexford Barnie can be reached on (571) 272-7492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Daniel D. Chang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2819

dc

DANIEL CHANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER